



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented before the Public Health Committee
February 28, 2014**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill 5284 – An Act Prohibiting Smoking In Certain Areas Of Railroad Stations

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 5284 and provides the following information:

Reducing exposure to secondhand smoke is good for the public's health since tobacco smoke hurts anyone who is exposed.¹ The less exposure to secondhand smoke, the less likely health problems will be triggered among those exposed. Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, hundreds of which are toxic.¹ Just being exposed to secondhand smoke increases the risk of a heart attack,¹ and can cause lung cancer in adults who do not smoke.² Children are especially at risk for asthma and other lower respiratory infections.² No amount of exposure to secondhand smoke is safe¹.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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- 1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: A Report to the Surgeon General "How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease", 2010
 - 2 U.S. Department of Environmental Protection. www.epa.gov/smokefree/healtheffects, accessed February 2013.